

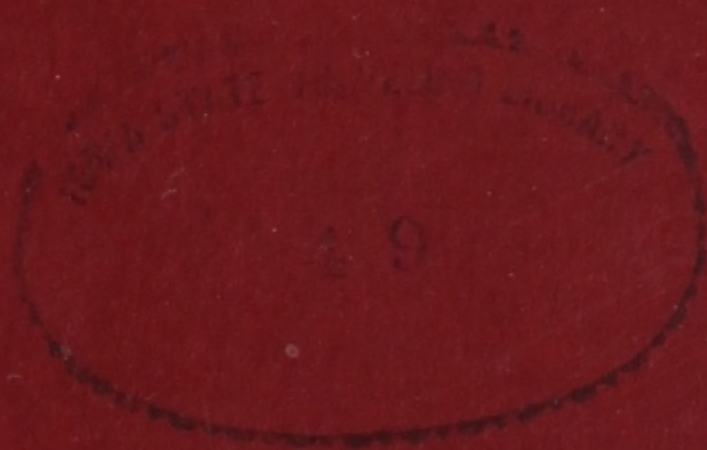
State of Iowa  
1949

IOWA  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
BULLETIN



'S of

IOWA STATE  
DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH



PUBLISHED BY  
THE STATE OF IOWA  
DES MOINES

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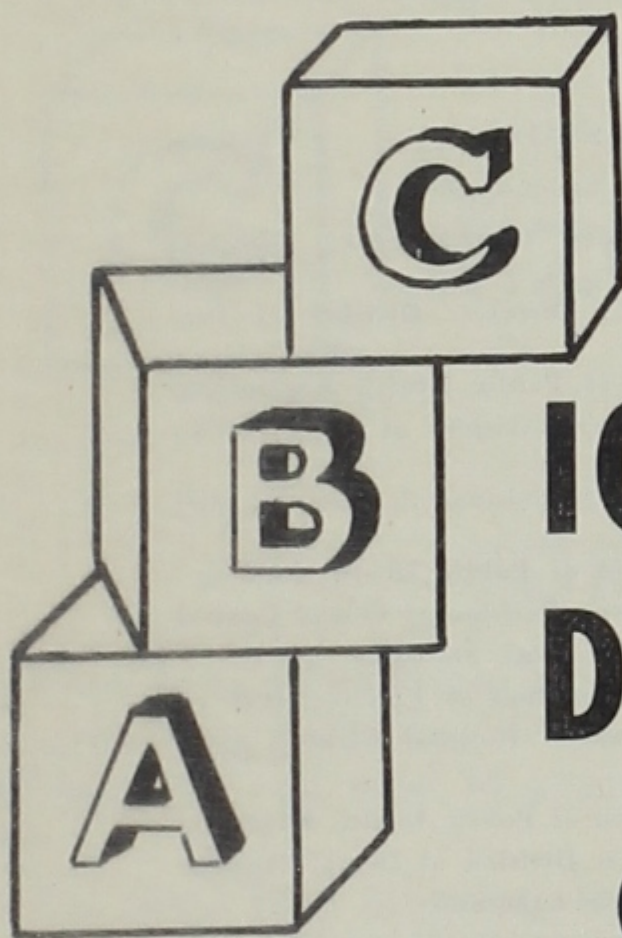






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**IOWA STATE  
DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH**

PUBLISHED BY  
THE STATE OF IOWA  
DES MOINES



IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
(Offices located at 1027 and 1014 Des Moines Street)

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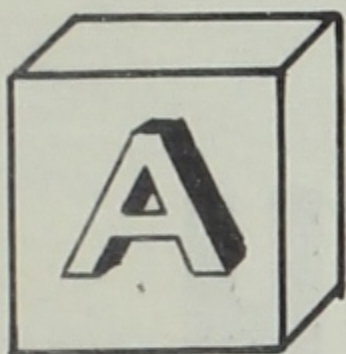
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Walter L. Bierring, M.D., Commissioner

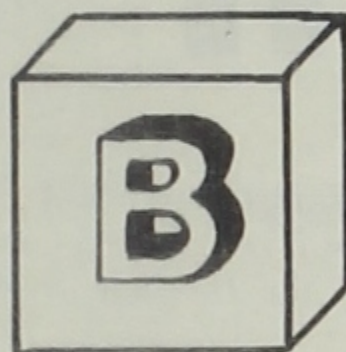
C. L. Putnam, M.D., M.S.P.H., Deputy Commissioner; Director,  
Division of Local Health Services  
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ventable Diseases  
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L. H. Flancher, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Division of Tuberculosis  
Control  
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Child Health  
Mattie Brass, R.N., B.S., Director, Division of Public Health Nursing  
Edmund G. Zimmerer, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Division of Cancer Control  
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Mary L. Wombacher, Secretary to Commissioner  
Mrs. Helen Vernon, Executive Secretary, Division of Cosmetology  
W. B. Wilson, Executive Secretary, Division of Barbering

\*Deceased May 24, 1949

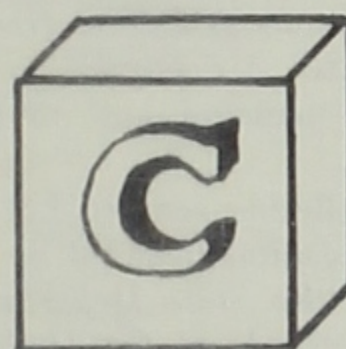




reason for



etter Health to



itizens in Iowa

## FOREWORD

Your Iowa State Department of Health is organized for the purpose of promoting better health in the state of Iowa, and to give you all the information you need to practice good health patterns in your daily life.

But there may be many Iowa citizens who do not realize that we provide this informational service. In fact, there may be MANY services of the State Department of Health affecting your daily life which you do not know about.

To you who ask what the work of the Iowa State Department of Health is, we answer with this booklet. On the following pages will be found a short description of each division's activities.

If you have any special inquiries concerning the services of a certain division, we invite you to write the State Department of Health and your question will be referred to the director of the division concerned.

*Walter L. Pierring*  
Commissioner of Health



# HIDDEN HEALTH

Turn the spotlight on Mr. and Mrs. Iowa Citizen. They just purchased their marriage license and passed the blood tests made at the *State Hygienic Laboratory*. As wedding bells ring, their marriage is duly registered in the *Division of Vital Statistics*.

The Citizens pick out a friendly community in Iowa, with clean pure water and the sewage and waste disposal system approved by the *Division of Public Health Engineering*. This division also sees that sanitation safeguards Mr. Citizen in his factory, where the *Industrial Hygiene Engineer* shows the manager how to prevent exposure to harmful dusts or fumes.

Later Mrs. Citizen receives prenatal and infant care bulletins sent to her by the *Division of Maternal and Child Health*. She attends a hospital licensed by the *Division of Hospital Services*. Her physician is licensed by the *State Department of Health*. Soon a new birth certificate is entered in the records of the *Division of Vital Statistics*.

Her family grows strong and healthy; Mrs. Citizen uses the information on nutrition furnished by the *State Nutritionist*. Their milk supply is inspected by the local sanitarian assisted by the *Milk Sanitarian* of the *Division of Public Health Engineering*.

They escape the scourges of diphtheria, smallpox, whooping cough and tetanus because the *Division of Preventable Diseases* informs Mrs. Iowa Citizen of the immunization schedules for these diseases, and the *Division of Maternal and Child Health* provides immunization materials for their community. The children's teeth are inspected by a dentist every six months, while their dental records are returned to the *Division of Dental Hygiene* for statistical purposes.

This Iowa family is X-rayed for the presence of tuberculosis and any unusual conditions in the chest which may be seen on the X-ray film, by the *Division of Tuberculosis Control*. The family is warned to watch for signs of cancer by the *Division of Cancer Control*. There is less danger of this family being infected with a venereal disease because the *Division of Venereal Diseases* watches the control of these diseases closely.

The local *public health nurse* calls on Mrs. Citizen when Junior catches the measles, gives her instructions on isolating him, and she leaves a warning sign to protect other families in the Citizen's neighborhood. The public health nurse is from the *District Health Service*, designed to bring the services of the *State Department of Health* closer to each family.

The Citizen family is protected from the danger of quack doctors by the *State Department of Health*, and they have a home library of health literature from the *Division of Public Health Education*.

Mr. and Mrs. Iowa Citizen are proud of their family, and the way they all keep healthy. That is why they should be aware of the organization and activities of the IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

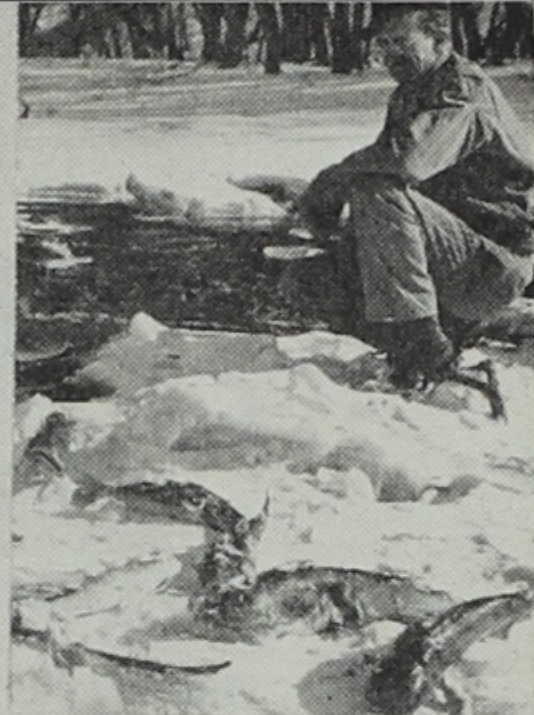




Free Health Education Literature



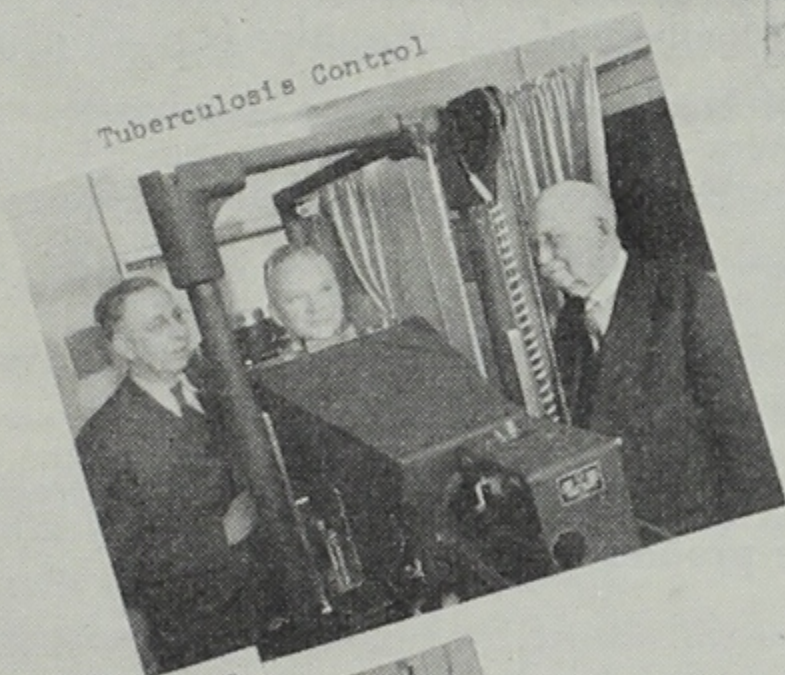
Communicable Diseases Control



Stream Pollution Study



Maternal and Child Health



Tuberculosis Control



Hospital Building



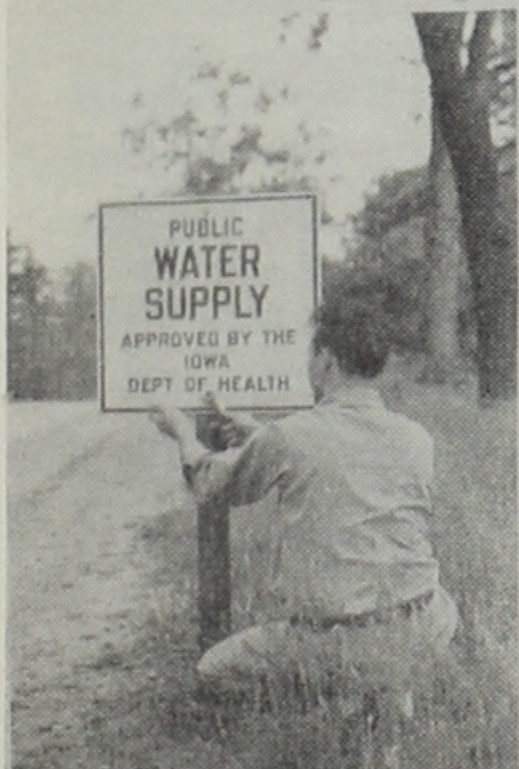
Public Health Nurse



Laboratory Services



Vaccinations and Immunizations



Public Health Engineering

Health News



VACCINATE FOR SMALLPOX

WAR ON SYPHILIS

Iowa Warned Against Flu Epidemic Over State

Rabbit Fever Deaths Bring New Warning

EXPECTS SHARP RISE BEFORE JAN. 1

Warns Measles on Upswing

POSTERS ASK FOR CO-OPERATION IN DISEASE WARFARE

WARNS OF IOWA PNEUMONIA GAIN



# STATE BOARD of HEALTH

The State Board of Health is the advisory body of the State Department of Health. Five physicians are appointed by the Governor of Iowa to serve for a period of two years or until their successors are appointed. Members of the executive council of the state and the Commissioner of Health are ex-officio members.

The State Board of Health meets semi-annually, in January and July. At these times the directors of each division report on the activities of the past six months for the Board's approval. The Commissioner presents matters of policy, asks for advice and recommendations regarding proposed programs, and seeks assistance relating to administrative problems.

## CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

The central administration of the State Department of Health is headed by the Commissioner of Health. This central office coordinates the efforts of all the divisions. Budgets are drawn up or approved, health campaigns are planned and projected, and the manifold functions of the State Department of Health are administered.

***you***  
*are the State Department of Health*

The State Department of Health has the job of exercising general supervision over the public health. But in modern public health practice, police powers are relatively little used. Public health education, rather than police measures, is employed to show the need for enforcement of health rules and regulations.

You are the Iowa State Department of Health because cooperation and understanding of the health program depends upon you.



Division of

# PREVENTABLE DISEASES

Ralph H. Heeren, B.S., M.D., M.S., Ph.D., M.P.H., Director

Modern public health is based on the idea that preventing disease is better than curing it. Community concerns of disease prevention are concentrated in the Division of Preventable Diseases.

**Communicable diseases . . .** are reported either by the physicians or from the State Hygienic Laboratory and, if serious, are investigated by some member of the State Department of Health. Physicians and health officers send daily reports of various infectious diseases. These reports are tabulated to study the current prevalence and location of disease compared to that of preceding periods. Control of the disease is thus made possible.

Recommendations to the local health authorities are made for control and preventive measures. A veterinarian is on the staff to work with problems of transmission of diseases from animals.

**Serum-Plasma Laboratory . . .** is licensed by the National Institute of Health to process blood for the production of measles, mumps, scarlet fever convalescent serums, and hyperimmune pertussis serum for the treatment of whooping cough. These materials are distributed upon request to any physician in the state.

Division of

# VENEREAL DISEASES

Ralph H. Heeren, B.S., M.D., M.S., Ph.D., M.P.H., Acting Director

Venereal diseases could be virtually stamped out if the problem were tackled with sufficient determination, money and manpower.

**If a case of venereal disease . . .** is found early and treatment begins immediately the infected person has but a minimum of time to transmit the infection to someone else and can, in most instances, be cured. A complete registry of all persons known to have had a venereal disease is kept to provide sources for tracing of new cases. Routine examinations may reveal cases of syphilis or gonorrhea also.

**Six major treatment centers . . .** in Iowa are located at Mercy Hospital, Burlington; Scott County Isolation Hospital, Davenport; State University of Iowa Hospitals, Iowa City; Broadlawns General Hospital, Des Moines; St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Sioux City; and Mercy Hospital, Council Bluffs.

There are 16 venereal disease clinics currently operating, provided with free drugs and consultant services. These services are furnished also to private physicians upon request.



Division of

# CANCER CONTROL

Edmund G. Zimmerer, M.D., M.P.H., Director

One-seventh of all the deaths in our state are caused by cancer.

The objectives of cancer control are: To find pre-cancerous lesions and encourage prompt medical treatment, to understand factors predisposing to cancer, and remove or avoid them, to create community interest and action in fighting cancer, to restore to health every cancerous person, so far as possible, and to reduce the death, illness and disability caused by cancer.

**For research . . .** statistical studies are carried on in an effort to determine what local climatological, occupational, dietary, racial or other factors may have a bearing upon the incidence of the disease.

**For diagnosis . . .** ten tumor clinics, strategically located, have been established in cooperation with the local county medical societies. These are, for the time being, located in Sioux City, Council Bluffs, Mason City, Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Clinton, Iowa City, Ottumwa and two in Des Moines. Several others are in process of forming.

The tumor clinic enables any person regardless of financial status who is suspected of having cancer, and who is referred by his physician, to receive the consultative services of a minimum of five practitioners of diverse specialties without cost. Only indigent patients are treated but all who desire and are referred by their physician, may receive the benefit of confirmatory diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

**For education . . .** frequent institutes are held in different areas of the state with authoritative speakers in the cancer field. Publications are also furnished professional workers in the field.

Upon the patient rests the sole responsibility of early suspicion. Some 80 lectures by the director, in addition to many more by other physicians, are given annually to various groups. There is a wide distribution of instructive literature both by the division and the American Cancer Society.

The division is a center for authoritative information regarding cancer, in order to spare Iowa citizens the mental anguish and disappointment of fake cures.



Division of

# TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

L. H. Flancher, M.D., M.P.H., Director

Iowa has the lowest rate of deaths due to tuberculosis of any state in the nation.

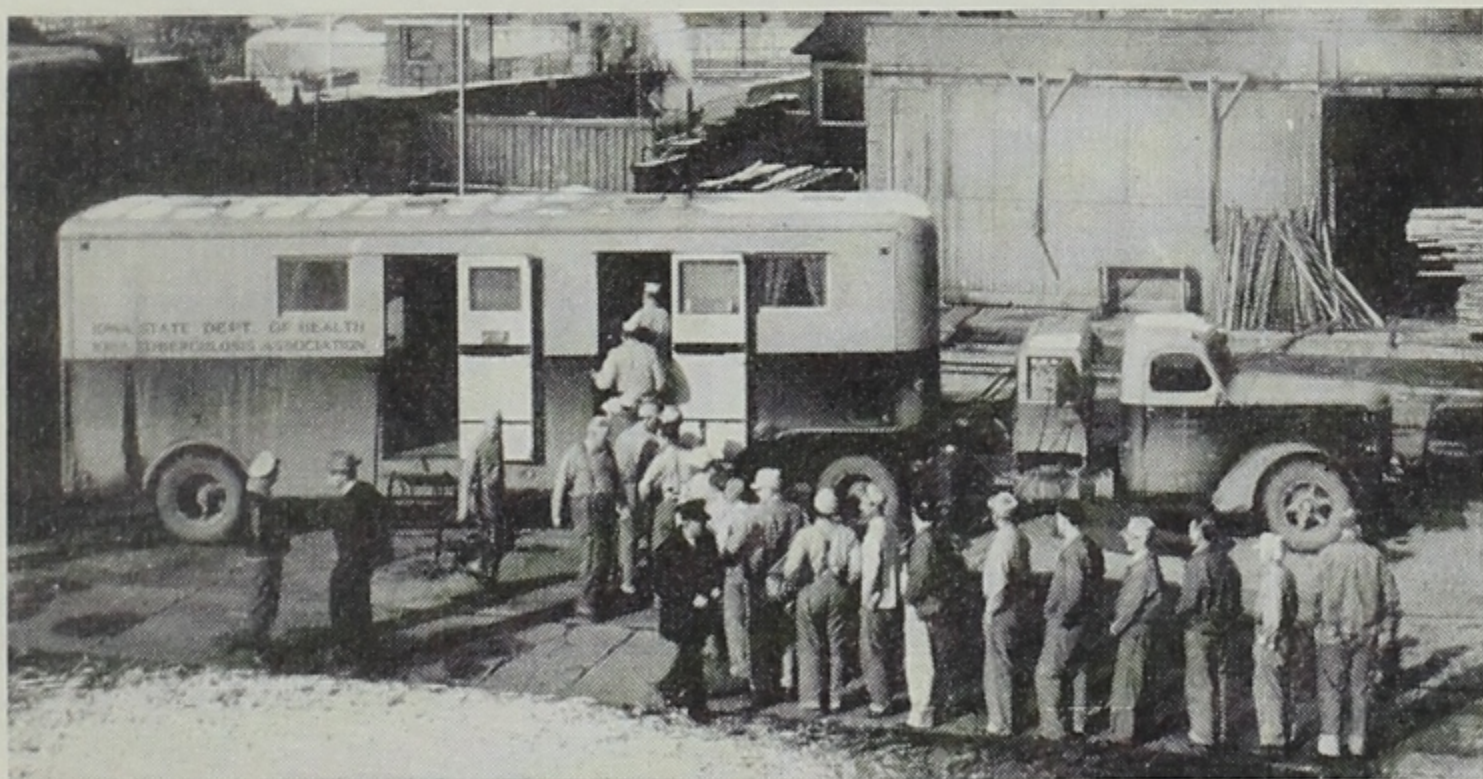
The Division of Tuberculosis Control and the Iowa Tuberculosis and Health Association carry on a joint program in the state. These are the only official and non-official organizations working under a jointly financed program in the United States.

**Early diagnosis . . .** is the password of these organizations. The Co-operative Case-Finding Program searches for tuberculosis cases in every county, with the cooperation of the county medical societies.

It is mandatory by law to report all cases of tuberculosis to the State Department of Health. A central registry is maintained in the Division of Tuberculosis Control. Educational programs are carried on extensively by the Iowa Tuberculosis and Health Association assisted by the division. Because of the low tuberculosis rate, more persons have to be X-rayed in order to find cases.

**The County-Wide Mass X-raying Program . . .** has been set up to X-ray the entire population of Iowa, county by county. The X-ray equipment consists of three mobile units with generators and a portable unit. X-ray pictures are taken on miniature film. Large X-rays are taken of all persons who show abnormal shadows in the first picture. The cases are then referred to the private physician. Those with normal chest X-rays are informed of this fact by card.

**The Contact Program . . .** with the approval from the county medical society, carries on a case-finding survey in counties. All persons who have been in contact with individuals known to have or to have





had tuberculosis are visited by a public health nurse after she obtains permission from the physicians to talk with their patients. She urges all members to see their physicians for a Mantoux test. If his findings show that tuberculosis may be present, the division makes arrangements to take X-rays of the chest to further verify the physician's diagnosis.

Between conferences, if the patient, in the opinion of the physician, is able to pay, it is suggested that the X-ray be taken privately in the usual manner. On the other hand, if the patient cannot pay, arrangements can usually be made with the local county tuberculosis association to pay for such X-rays.

Division of

## MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH

John M. Hayek\*, M.D., M.P.H., Director

Primarily educational, the work of this division is aimed toward helping protect the health of infants, mothers and children and particularly toward reducing the number of infant and maternal deaths.

**Publications** . . . on maternal and child health are available through this division. Films and slides may be obtained on request. Poster and exhibit materials are distributed for study and educational purposes. Speakers are provided various groups when time permits. For expectant mothers, a series of prenatal letters is sent to women upon the request of physicians. Diet schedules for them and their children also are furnished upon request.

**Immunization programs** . . . are sponsored throughout the state. Printed material, publicity aids and suggestions for the organization of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and smallpox preventive programs are provided groups interested in sponsoring such programs, with the approval of their local medical society.

Ampules of silver nitrate for treating the eyes of new-born babies for the prevention of blindness are furnished free of charge upon request of physicians and hospitals. Portable incubators, available to physicians and hospitals at all hours, are supplied each of the district health services. This equipment is not intended to replace hospitalization.

**Demonstrations** . . . providing rural obstetrical medical and nursing service are conducted in Washington County with the help of this division and motherhood classes in Polk City and Des Moines were held.

**Studies** . . . are made in the various fields of maternal and child health and consultant service is offered in the field of public health nursing to assist in extending and improving maternal and child health services.

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\*Deceased.





A happy smile is more beautiful with perfect teeth—and more happy smiles is the goal for the Division of Dental Hygiene. Here's Mrs. Lois Price Duncan, of Jefferson, smiling because she has been described by dental hygienists as "the girl with the perfect teeth."

Division of

## DENTAL HYGIENE

Olin E. Hoffman, D.D.S., M.P.H., Director

The long range program of dental hygiene is directed at Iowa's school children, stressing adequate nutrition, adequate instruction in oral hygiene and adequate dental care. In Iowa dental caries is prevalent among 84 percent of the school children.

Programs of dental health . . . are sponsored for groups interested in the preschool child. County dental societies cooperate with the division in providing courtesy examinations for preschool children and completing the record cards. These cards go to the Division of Dental Hygiene for statistical analysis. School administrators are furnished at cost a classroom record sheet, dental cards and teachers' manual. The dental card informs both pupil and parent of the importance of ade-



quate nutrition, oral cleanliness and regular supervision by the family dentist.

**Research . . .** is carried out to study the effect of preventive aids in the oral cavity and the information obtained is provided to educators, nutritionists and dentists. Lactobacillus acidophilus counts are used as a basis for these studies. The State Hygienic Laboratory at Iowa City provides the bacteria counts for dentists sending in samples of saliva.

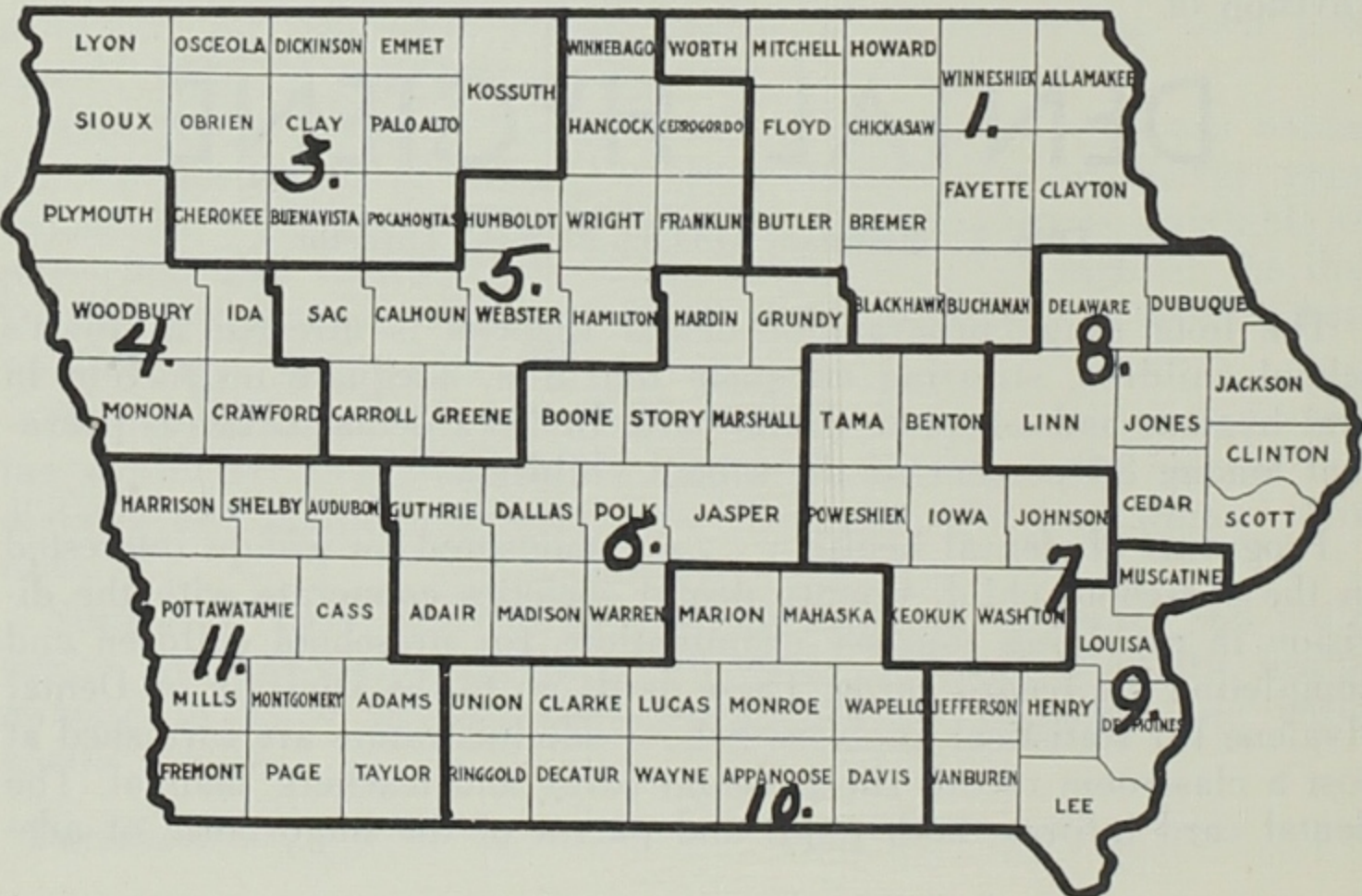
**Improvement in nutritional standards . . .** a universal school lunch program, good oral hygiene practices and adequate dental care are urged to reduce the incidence of tooth mortality resulting from advanced gingivitis and dental caries.

**Indigent children in the eleventh and twelfth grades . . .** are also assured of essential dental service by the division if they are unable to pay for such care.

**Fluoride treatments . . .** are provided first grade pupils in ten of our Iowa counties.

**Literature . . .** on preventive dentistry, fluorine leaflets, films and dental health education materials are available from the Division of Dental Hygiene.

# DISTRICT SERVICES





# DISTRICT OFFICES and CLINICS

## **District Health Service No. 1**

Headquarters: Decorah, Iowa. Telephone: Decorah 375.

Comprising: Allamakee, Blackhawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Floyd, Howard, Mitchell, Winneshiek and Worth counties.

Venereal Disease Clinic: Waterloo.

## **District Health Service No. 3**

Headquarters: Spencer, Iowa. Telephone: Spencer 1503.

Comprising: Buena Vista, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocahontas and Sioux counties.

## **District Health Service No. 4**

Comprising: Crawford, Ida, Monona, Plymouth and Woodbury counties.

Tumor Clinic: Sioux City.

Venereal Disease Clinic: Sioux City.

## **District Health Service No. 5**

Headquarters: Fort Dodge, Iowa. Telephone, Walnut 3818.

Comprising: Calhoun, Carroll, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Greene, Hancock, Hamilton, Humboldt, Sac, Webster, Winnebago and Wright counties.

Tumor Clinic: Mason City.

Venereal Disease Clinic: Fort Dodge.

## **District Health Service No. 6**

Headquarters: Des Moines, Iowa. Telephone: Des Moines 4-7119.

Comprising: Adair, Boone, Dallas, Grundy, Guthrie, Hardin, Jasper, Madison, Marshall, Polk, Story and Warren counties.

Venereal Disease Clinic: Broadlawns Hospital, Des Moines.

Tumor Clinics: Broadlawns Hospital, Veterans Hospital, Des Moines.

## **District Health Service No. 7**

Headquarters: Washington, Iowa. Telephone: Washington 488.

Comprising: Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk, Poweshiek, Tama and Washington counties.

Tumor Clinic: Iowa City.

Venereal Disease Clinic: Iowa City.

## **District Health Service No. 8**

Headquarters: Manchester, Iowa. Telephone: Manchester 436.

Comprising: Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jones, Linn and Scott counties.

Venereal Disease Clinics: Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Clinton, Dubuque and Davenport.

Tumor Clinic: Cedar Rapids, Clinton and Dubuque.

## **District Health Service No. 9**

Headquarters: Burlington, Iowa. Telephone: Burlington 2960.

Comprising: Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine and Van Buren counties.

Venereal Disease Clinics: Burlington, Muscatine, Keokuk and Fort Madison.

## **District Health Service No. 10**

Headquarters: Centerville, Iowa. Telephone: Centerville 80.

Comprising: Appanoose, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Lucas, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Ringgold and Wapello counties.

Tumor Clinic: Ottumwa.

Venereal Disease Clinics: Ottumwa, Oskaloosa.

## **District Health Service No. 11**

Headquarters: Council Bluffs, Iowa. Telephone: 7880.

Comprising: Adams, Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie and Shelby counties.

Venereal Disease Clinic: Council Bluffs.

Tumor Clinic: Council Bluffs.



# STATE NUTRITIONIST

Mrs. Helen N. Lovell, B.S., M.S., State Nutritionist

Nutrition is the key to good health. Yet the evaluation of 1,677 three-day diet records in Iowa shows that in some counties one-half to three-fourths of the rural and city children surveyed were getting poor diets. Of 408 rural children surveyed in one county, only ten percent were getting one serving of green and yellow vegetables a day and only seventeen percent were getting enough milk a day.

The nutritionist for the State Department of Health is interested in improving the nutritional status of Iowans by nutrition education. This is accomplished by research, consultative and direct services.

**If you are a mother . . .** and want information on nutrition for your children, write to the nutritionist. She evaluates the nutrition literature so that the best publications are made available to you through the State Department of Health.

The nutritionist not only evaluates the material, but whenever suitable publications are not available she cooperates with other organizations to prepare bulletins especially suited to Iowa's needs.

**If you are a teacher . . .** the nutritionist may speak to your group about teaching nutrition in the schools. She'll be glad to help you plan and carry out a nutrition program.

**If you are a public health nurse . . .** the nutritionist may come to your community to have individual conferences with mothers at pre-school conferences, teach prenatal, adult education and other classes on a demonstration basis. She'll keep you informed of the new developments in nutrition and the practical applications.

The nutritionist also gives special diet instructions to children and their parents at the State Services for Crippled Children Clinics and some of the Well Baby Clinics.

**If you are a community-minded citizen . . .** interested in the nutrition of any special group, the nutritionist is available to promote and set standards for better food practices. The state nutrition service is individualized to make practical applications most effective.

The State Nutritionist gives talks to various groups for special occasions, and also arranges radio programs during the year. She frequently participates in nurses' staff meetings on both the state and local level.

Because nutrition plays a role in so many phases of health work and should have a part in the various health programs, the nutritionist works closely with the other divisions of the State Department of Health and other state and local organizations.



Division of

# PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

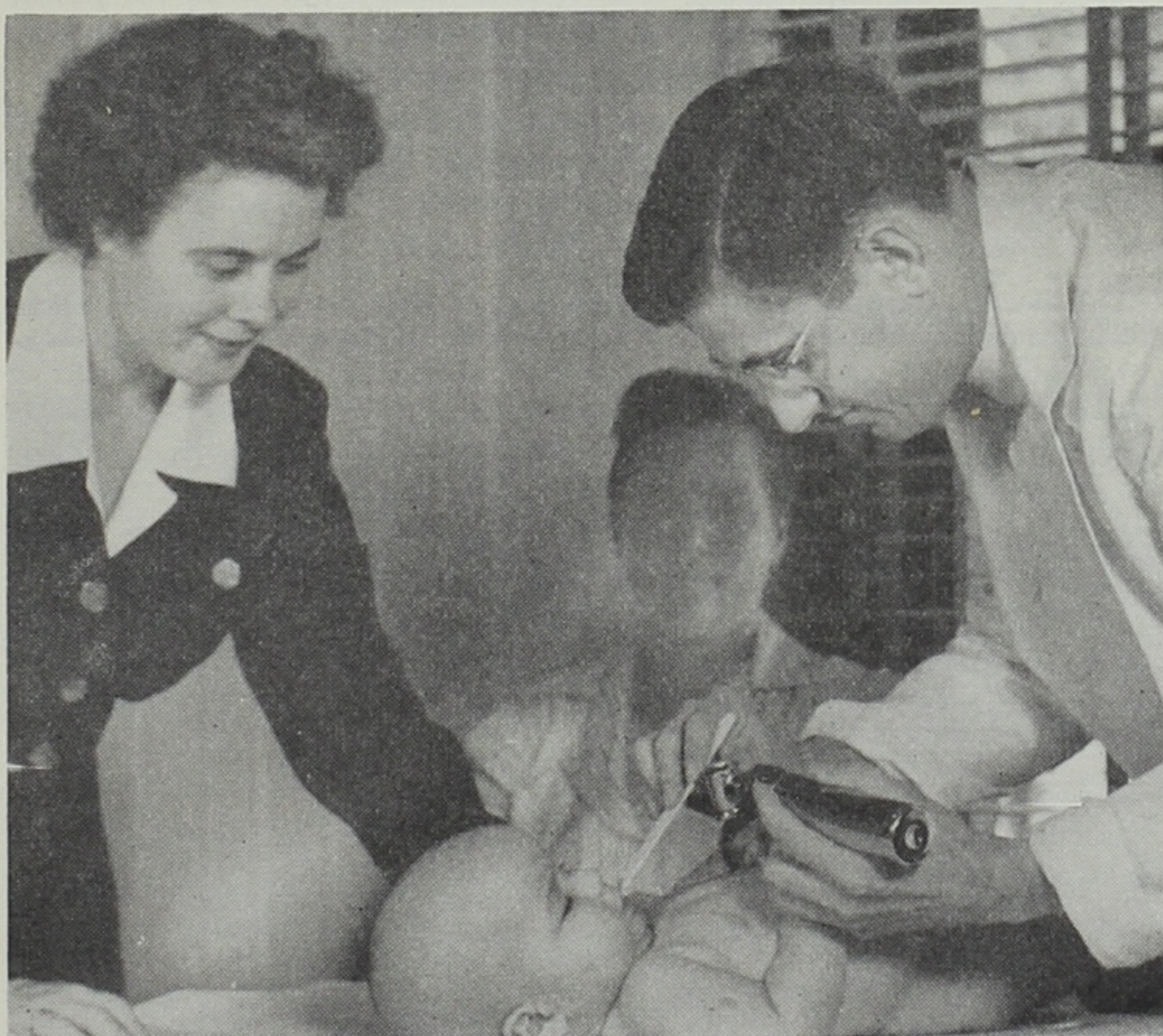
Mattie Brass, R.N., B.S., Director

Public health nursing is necessary to a complete health program. Through public health nurses, professional nursing is given or demonstrated under medical direction to the sick in their homes.

Through them, sound health teaching is carried to individuals, families and communities.

Promoting health and preventing illness . . . is their fundamental purpose. Whether caring for the sick in the home, assisting at a clinic, counseling in the school or advising an individual, the public health nurse is a teacher. Her goal is to keep the well person well, and to help

The public health nurse has a busy day—teaching and demonstrating—and serving the healthy as well as the sick in her district. She coordinates all the services of health agencies in her community for each family's benefit.





the sick regain their health. Her service is available to all groups, in all economic and social circumstances.

**Plans, policies and programs . . .** for nursing in the several divisions of the State Department of Health, are laid with the assistance of this division. The division arranges for distribution of nursing assistance and coordinates the nursing services of the department. Planning for in-service educational programs and the stimulation of interest in advanced professional education in public health nursing is given considerable emphasis also.

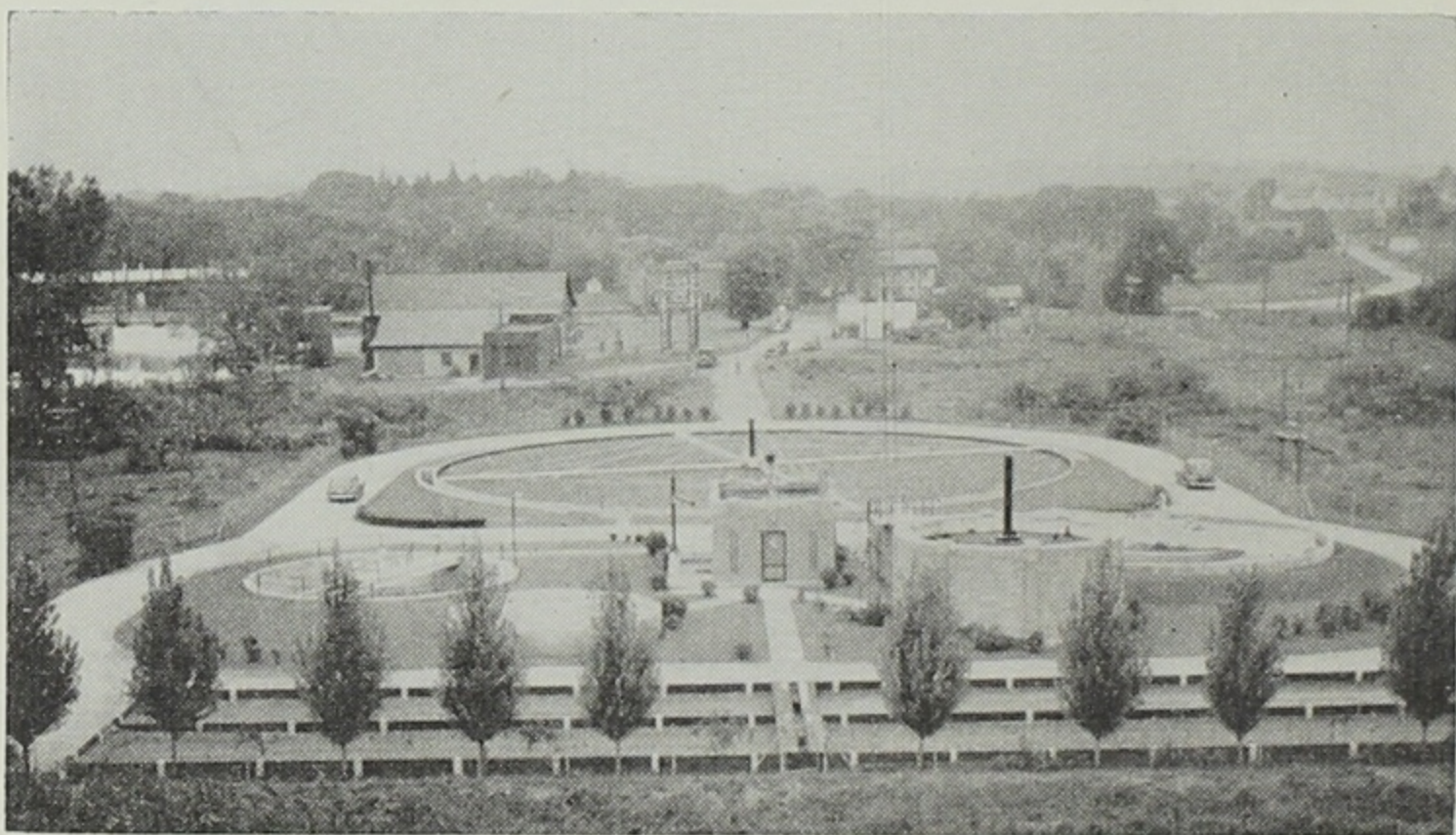
**All nurses employed . . .** by the State Department of Health, including those in the district and county health services, and nurses employed in other official and non-official agencies as well, may turn to this division for guidance and professional direction. Assistance is given in studying needs for nursing service and in the recommendation of candidates for basic nursing education as well as for public health nurses.

**Nursing personnel . . .** of the division consists of a director, and consultants in the various specialties. The aim of the division is to assist in providing guidance which will give to the communities of the state an integrated, balanced program of public health nursing.

**The supervising nurses . . .** from the district health offices, are responsible for the supervision of the public health nurses in the public health services subsidized by the State Department of Health, and serve as advisors to nurses employed by other agencies, upon request.

These supervisory nurses collaborate with the personnel of the Division of Public Health Nursing for the purpose of planning policies and programs for this nursing service.

**This sewage treatment plant in an Iowa town represents the modern plants recommended by the Division of Public Health Engineering.** —————→





Division of

# PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING

Paul J. Houser, M.S., Director

It isn't news if you drink safe water day after day. Nor is it news if the stream flowing in your town is safe for aquatic life, or the working man in your community has a safe industrial plant in which to work. Yet the alertness of the public health engineer is constantly guarding you from what would be headline news, such as epidemics of water-borne diseases caused by improper sewage disposal or treatment of water.

The problems of living in our environment . . . are checked at their source by the Division of Public Health Engineering. Prevention of polluted water supply, for example, begins when the engineers in the division review and approve the plans for new installations of public water works. The public health engineer works right along with the designing engineer in examining the plans, and assists the operator in accomplishing the purpose for which the plant is built, by providing careful operation and maintenance. Expertly trained sanitary engineers are needed for this work of advising the owner on how to get the maximum protection from the facility in use. His policy is one of providing service, not police power.

Engineering activities . . . of this division are organized to prevent the spread of disease through environment, to find disease sources when it is believed they are in the environment, and to maintain the safety of man-made structures which are potential health menaces. Duties include fact-finding, advising, education and enforcing the statutes when necessary.

Campaigns are conducted . . . for the education of the citizens in sanitation and hygiene. Investigations and surveys are made in respect to the causes of disease and epidemics, and the effect of locality, employment and living conditions upon the public health. Inspections are made of the sanitary conditions in the educational, charitable, correctional and penal institutions in the state. Assistance is given to industrial management in the prevention of occupational diseases.

If five or more citizens from a locality petition for an investigation of insanitary conditions, the division issues directions for correction or improvement, to be executed by the local board of health.

District engineers . . . conduct routine inspections of public and semi-public water supplies and sewerage systems, and report findings with recommendations for improvement to the central office, for review and forwarding to the local officials. They advise local officials on proper maintenance and operation of sanitary facilities, including water supplies, sewerage systems, garbage and refuse disposal and swimming pools. Their work also includes giving advice on insect and rodent control programs, milk and food sanitation regulations, assistance in epidemiological investigations, lighting surveys of school buildings and sanitation facilities at state parks, semi-public camps and resorts.



Division of

# VITAL STATISTICS

Loren E. Chancellor, Director

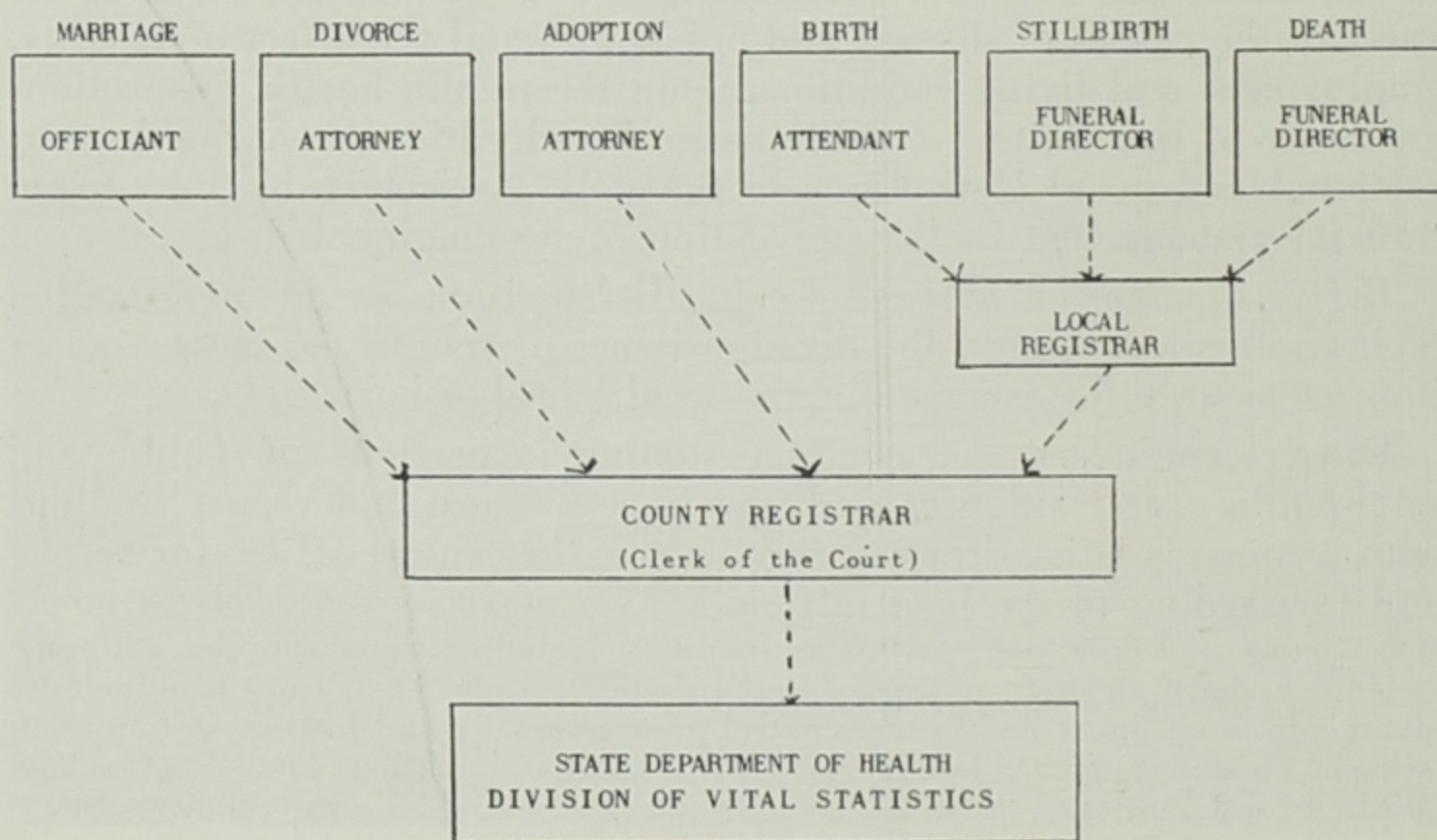
Will Rogers has said, "When you see a boy running around with a pair of pants on, or without 'em for that matter, it is pretty good proof that he has been born—but it does not prove when, where at, nor who to." The birth certificate is important in establishing citizenship and thus obtaining employment, passports, access to public schools or marriage licenses.

Serving as a central collecting agency . . . the division receives and preserves certificates of vital events, such as births, deaths, still-births, marriages and divorces which take place in Iowa. One out of every ten persons in the state is directly affected each year by the processing and filing of the vital documents done by the Division of Vital Statistics. Statistical tables important to persons interested in the rate of births, deaths and marriages are also prepared by this division.

The most modern methods . . . of coding, transcribing and sorting are used by this division. All results are coded and tabulated, a statistical analysis is made and the results recorded in the form of statistical tables and special reports. All vital records are transcribed each month on microfilm and the copies sent to the United States Public Health Service for national analysis and compilation of statistical data.

Any person or group desiring Iowa vital statistics data is invited to contact the Division of Vital Statistics.

FLOW OF VITAL RECORDS IN IOWA





Division of

## LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

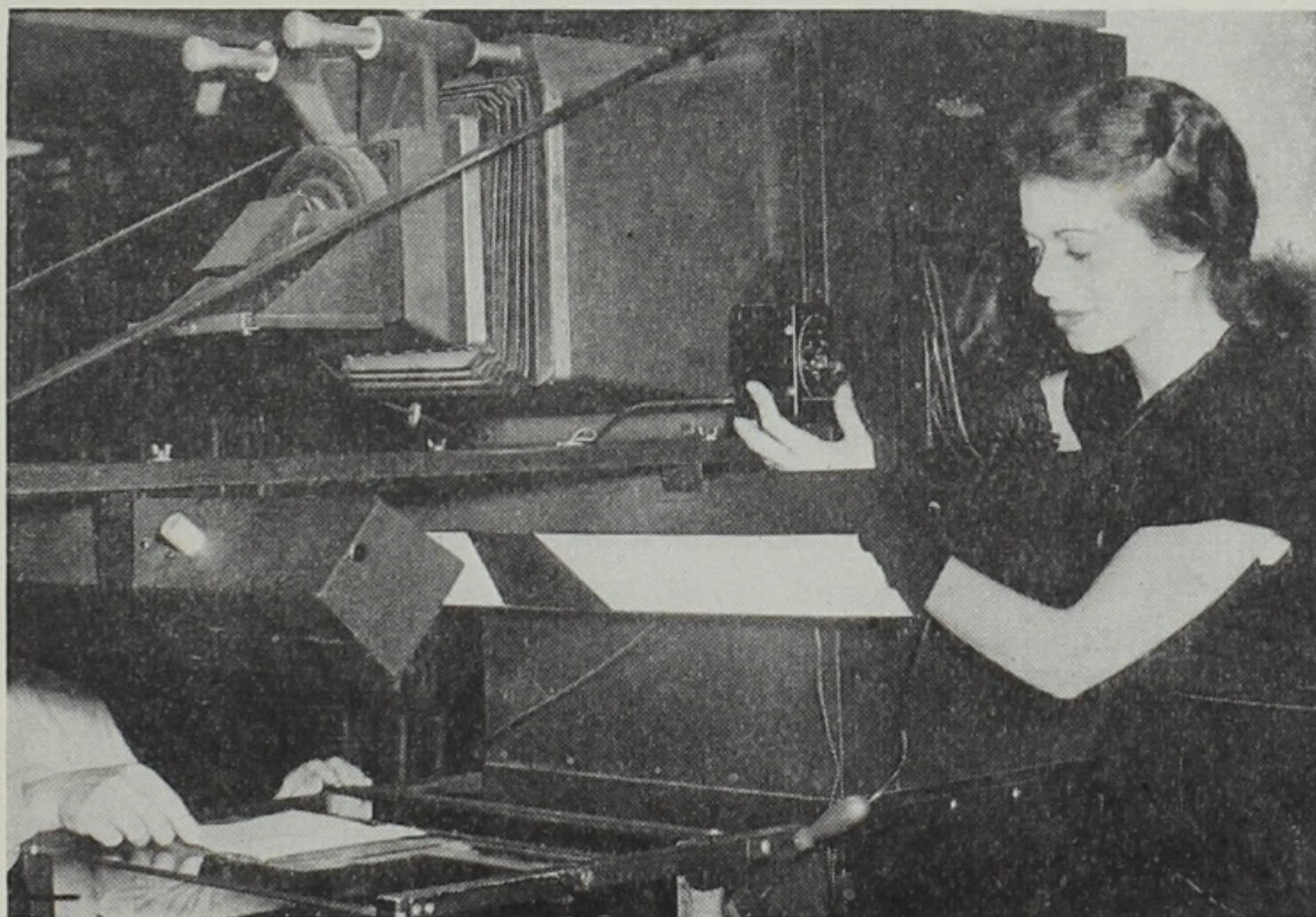
C. L. Putnam, M.D., M.S.P.H., Deputy Commissioner,  
and Director of Local Health Services

Most of the functions of public health can best be performed on a local basis. This division correlates and extends the activities of the various divisions of the State Department of Health, making their services available to the entire state through the various district and county health services.

The district offices . . . include the following personnel: A medical director, an advisory nurse, a public health engineer, and a stenographer. The activities of these district health departments are coordinated and supervised by the Division of Local Health Services. Suggestions, program outlines, correspondence and all matters directed to district health services are cleared through this division.

Autonomous full-time local health departments . . . are encouraged and assisted in counties by the Division of Local Health Services. When a local full-time health department is established, the division, upon request, gives advice and assistance to the local board of health in securing qualified professional personnel, drafting health ordinances, preparing a program of work, a budget, and setting up other administrative and technical procedures.

This modern photostating machine is used in the Division of Vital Statistics to record thousands of certificates.





# STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY

I. H. Borts, M.D., Director

Medical science depends a good deal upon cultural, microscopic and chemical tests which reveal a certain disease.

The prime function of the State Hygienic Laboratory is to provide service to physicians, dentists, veterinarians and health agencies of the state relative to the diagnosis and control of human communicable diseases. This work is closely coordinated with demands and investigations of the various divisions of the State Department of Health.

Among the secondary functions are those of training personnel of local laboratories to perform better and more advanced work. Another function is that of inspecting and approving laboratories to perform certain tests.

Research is necessary to improve laboratory tests in use, to develop new tests, and to determine the cause and relationship of new and unrecognized communicable diseases.

Special laboratory investigations and analyses are undertaken as the need arises and the laboratory staff and facilities permit.

The State Hygienic Laboratory analyzes several hundred thousand specimens and samples each year.

**Bacteriology Laboratory** . . . performs cultural, smear, agglutination and other tests, searching for the cause of brucellosis, dental caries, dysentery, diphtheria, food poisoning, parasites, rabies, tuberculosis, typhoid fever, streptococcus sore throat, and many other diseases. These specimens are received from physicians, dentists, veterinarians, hospitals and clinics throughout the state.

**Serology Laboratory** . . . is the laboratory to which blood samples for evidence of syphilis from the entire state are sent for routine prenatal and premarital examination. This is a service to the people of the state through their physicians, hospitals, clinics and treatment centers.

**Water Laboratory** . . . analysts perform bacterial, chemical and microscopic examinations of water, milk, sewage, stream water and industrial wastes. The majority of the samples are from municipal water supplies, public swimming pools, rural schools and private wells. In addition, laboratory services are provided to the engineers of the State Department of Health and the Iowa Geological Survey.

Practicing physicians and health agencies in the state refer questions of diagnosis and control of communicable diseases to the Laboratory. The State Hygienic Laboratory is located in the Medical Laboratories Building, State University of Iowa, Iowa City.

The State Hygienic Laboratory makes many time-consuming and highly specialized tests while the local private laboratories conduct more of the simpler tests.





# HOSPITAL SERVICES

R. C. Hanlon, B.S., M.S., Director

The Division of Hospital Services is actively working toward the goal of good hospital service for every citizen in Iowa. The division is striving toward a coordinated hospital system, an interrelated network of general hospitals throughout the state in which one or more base hospitals provide district hospitals and the latter in turn provide rural and other small hospitals with such services relative to diagnosis, treatment, medical research and teaching as cannot be provided by the smaller hospitals individually.

Its activities are divided into several phases: Licensing program, hospital survey and construction. The first task of the division was to make an inventory of existing hospitals and a survey to determine the hospital and public health needs for the entire state.

The licensure activities . . . for hospitals and nursing homes include the establishment of minimum standards by the Division of Hospital Services and Hospital Licensing Board, and field survey and inspection of each institution at least annually to insure adequate patient care.





**The Iowa Hospital Plan . . .** is set up and revised annually. The priority system is strictly adhered to by the division in continuing the Iowa Hospital Plan. This priority is based upon relative needs to enable those areas without existing acceptable hospital beds an immediate participation if they can qualify with the financial requirements of the law. After the plans for the new hospital, or addition to a hospital, have been approved, the project is open for competitive bidding on the construction of the hospital.

**Construction . . .** amounting to approximately 14 million dollars worth of hospital buildings was aided by federal funds in 1949 through the Division of Hospital Services administration. Those projects receiving Federal Aid must have plans approved, and be inspected throughout the year or more of construction work in order that the State Department of Health may certify to the United States Public Health Service that the work has been performed according to the approved plans and specifications and that payments are due the sponsors of the hospitals. Construction now underway will meet an estimated 12 percent of the general hospital bed need in Iowa.

Health centers are being proposed, but none planned as yet. Although there are sufficient bed units for tuberculosis patients, very little attention is given by hospital sponsors to patients with chronic disease or the care of the aged. Only one new psychiatric unit is being made available.

Division of

## PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

Leonard C. Murray, M.A., Ph.D., Director

Information about good health is of little value until you know—and act—upon the facts. There is a need for speakers, movies, display materials and pamphlets to relay information about good health.

The Division of Public Health Education uses motion pictures, film strips, news releases, radio programs, speakers, posters, exhibits and pamphlets to tell the health story to citizens of the state.

**A monthly newspaper . . .** "For Iowa's Health" is sent to 8,000 citizens in Iowa, containing news about latest health developments and work of the State Department of Health. Any interested person may obtain copies of this publication.

**Pamphlets and news releases . . .** are also planned and written in this division. Thousands of pieces of health literature are mailed out answering requests. Packets containing health literature are furnished to schools, libraries, community organizations and health officers.

**A health film library . . .** provides movies to any organization requesting use of a film for a program or class. The films are constantly circulating over the state, describing health facts in a colorful and informative way.

**Radio programs . . .** are used over Iowa stations as a public service



feature. Free literature is offered to listeners and emphasis is placed upon seasonal health factors of interest.

**Health Education Forums . . .** are sponsored in communities by this division. Speakers and entertainment are arranged for with the assistance of the Interprofessional Association and the local community organization. Exhibits, displays and speakers are furnished by this division for conventions and fairs also.

All the facilities of this division are available free to every citizen, every school and every community organization in the state. Literature order blanks and the film catalog are available by writing to this division.

## LICENSURE and REGISTRATION

Walter L. Bierring, M.D., Commissioner, Acting Director

This division comprises the nine Examining Boards . . . in Medicine and Surgery, Osteopathy, Chiropractic, Dentistry, Embalming, Optometry, Podiatry or Chiropody, Barbering and Cosmetology. Each board of examiners is created by law to authorize the issuance of licenses to practice by examination, or reciprocal agreement of interstate endorsement of license granted by another state.

The certificates of license are signed by the Commissioner. The State Board of Medical Examiners is authorized to accept the certificate of the National Board of Medical Examiners of the United States in lieu of the examination required for licensure.

Applicants for licensure in the three healing arts of medicine and surgery, osteopathy and chiropractic are required to furnish certification from the Iowa State Board of Examiners in the Basic Sciences.

The State Boards in Barbering and Cosmetology . . . have the additional function of sanitary inspection of barber and beauty shops as well as supervision of the professional schools located in Iowa.

Annual registration of all licenses . . . is required in this state. The inspection and investigation of all violations of practice and the penalties governing the same is under the direction of the Attorney Inspector.

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*Free Health Literature . . .* is available.

**KNOW** what to do before the doctor comes.

**KNOW** how to live so that he won't come often.

**BUILD** a library of health facts in your home.

*WRITE today and ask for a health literature order blank from the Division of Public Health Education.*



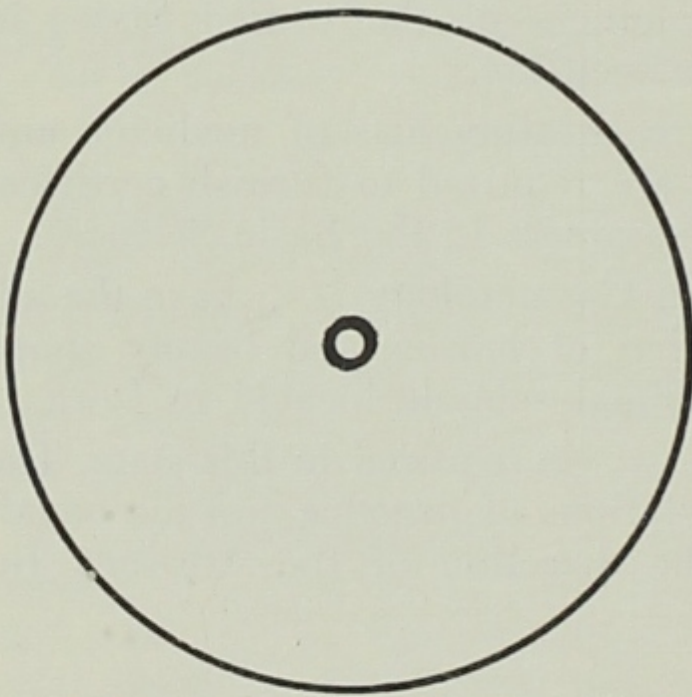
# WHAT YOU PAY

The Iowa legislature made available approximately \$101,000,000 for the 1949 expenditures in the state. Only a small part goes for the operation of state departments. Larger sums are spent for entirely different services, such as aid to schools, building programs, roads and many other purposes.

The grand total provided the State Department of Health, for operation of its public health activities, from this total appropriation, is \$303,173.

Thus the state of Iowa spends 00.3 per cent, or three-tenths of one per cent, of the funds for the State Department of Health.

When you pay your state taxes, you pay  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a cent per dollar *each year* to the operation of your State Department of Health.



The large circle represents \$101,000,000 total state appropriations. The small circle in the center is the \$303,173 spent for the Iowa State Department of Health.

IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Des Moines, Iowa







STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



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